



I hope this finds you, your family and friends in good health and spirit. Over the last month, we have witnessed increased activity regarding national security, legislation and personal achievements.

The Liberation of Iraq officially began on the evening of Wednesday, March 18. The United States has made great strides in targeting and surrounding Iraqi military forces. We have quickly advanced to the outskirts of Baghdad and have had several thousand Iraqi soldiers surrender to coalition forces. At such a critical point in American history, it is now more important than ever to rally around our military forces and our President.

In an effort to increase Homeland security, I am pleased to have introduced H.R. 1049, The Arming Cargo Pilots Against Terrorism Act. Due to the events of September 11, Congress voted overwhelmingly last year to arm commercial airline pilots in order to prevent future acts of terrorism. However, the bill failed to include cargo pilots. The Arming Cargo Pilots Against Terrorism Act will close the legislative loophole and reinforce our homeland defense by adding an additional layer of security.

As Co-Chairman of the House Bulgarian Caucus, I am proud to have introduced H. Con. Res. 77, which commemorates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust during March of 1943. The legislation passed the House this month on a vote of 418-0. Bulgaria is a truly remarkable country and deserves this special recognition. It has proven itself to be a reliable ally in the War on Terrorism, a true friend of the United States, and a partner in disarming the brutal dictator Saddam Hussein.

Additionally, I am proud to announce that the entire South Carolina Congressional Delegation has joined me in introducing legislation to designate the South Lake Drive post office in Lexington as the "Floyd Spence Post Office Building." The late Congressman Floyd Spence was a leader for South Carolina and a personal inspiration for me. He was not only my very dear friend, but also my most trusted mentor throughout my entire political career.

Finally, Tom Taylor of Hilton Head Island and Major General Stanhope S. Spears of Columbia have been named Citizen of the Month award recipients. Mr. Taylor accepted the award for February, 2003, and Major General Spears for March, 2003. Recipients of this award have dedicated inordinate amounts of time and energy to improving our great state and nation. It is truly an honor to personally recognize these men for all that they have given back to South Carolina.

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